

Message Text

SECRET

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TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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S E C R E T STATE 234447

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

RITHAUDDEEN

1. SECRETARY MET SEPTEMBER 30 WITH MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN. MEETING WAS CORDIAL, AND BOTH SECRETARY AND RITHAUDDEEN NOTED THE ABSENCE OF OUTSTANDING U.S.-MALAYSIAN BILATERAL ISSUES. FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE ADDRESSED.

2. COURTESY. SECRETARY NOTED THAT HE HAD REQUESTED THE MEETING, IN ORDER TO MEET RITHAUDDEEN AND EXPRESS PERSONALLY USC'S GOODWILL TOWARDS MALAYSIA. HE HAD HEARD FROM ASST SECRETARY HABIB THAT THE MALAYSIANS, AND RITHAUDDEEN PERSONALLY, WERE EXCELLENT HOSTS. RITHAUDDEEN NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO MALAYSIA OCTOBER 2 AT PRIME MINISTER RAZAK'S REQUEST, BEFORE RAZAK LEFT FOR AUSTRALIA.

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3. MALAYSIAN SECURITY SITUATION. RITHAUDDEEN SAID THAT

FOR THE MOMENT THERE WAS NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT ARMS WERE COMING IN FROM VIETNAM. SOME M-16S ARE TURNING UP, BUT THAT HAD BEEN THE CASE EVEN BEFORE THE FALL OF VIETNAM. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION, RITHAUDDEEN SAID THERE WERE NO ARMS PRESENTLY COMING IN BY BOAT. A YEAR AGO A GOM PATROL HAD SUNK A SHIP WHICH HAD ATTEMPTED TO SMUGGLE ARMS, AND SUCH SHIPMENTS TO GOM'S KNOWLEDGE HAD NOT BEEN RESUMED. RITHAUDDEEN ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT LENGTH OF MALAYSIA'S COASTLINE PLUS SABAH AND SARAWAK COULD OFFER SMUGGLERS MANY OPPORTUNITIES. HE SAID THAT INSURGENTS NUMBERED 1,500-2,000, INCLUDING SUPPORTERS. WHEN SECRETARY ASKED WHETHER GOM WAS WORKING WITH SINGAPORE IN THE SECURITY FIELD, RITHAUDDEEN SAID "YES, AND ON OPERATIONS WE ARE WORKING WITH THE THAIS." IN THE LATTER CASE, HE ADDED, "WE CAN GET DECISIONS FROM THE TOP, BUT THEN THERE ARE PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTATION". HE CHARACTERIZED PRESENT COOPERATION, THOUGH, AS GOOD WITH BOTH THE THAIS AND THE INDONESIANS.

4. U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE. ASST SECRETARY HABIB RECALLED THAT U.S. TEAM HAD VISITED MALAYSIA, AND HE SAID WE ARE NOW EXPLORING THAT TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO SEE HOW WE CAN BEST BE HELPFUL. AS A START, WE HAD INFORMED THE GOM THAT WE WERE REQUESTING 17 MILLION DOLS IN FMS CREDITS FOR FY-76, AND WE WERE EXPEDITING PROCESSING FOR EXPORT LICENSES OF M-16S THAT GOM HAD ORDERED. SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN THESE MATTERS, AND SAID THAT USG HAS AN INTEREST AS WELL IN MALAYSIA RETAINING ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY,

5. ASEAN. RITHAUDDEEN SAID GOM PLACED RELIANCE ON ASEAN, IN WHICH "WE HAVE HAD FAITH FOR THE PAST 7-8 YEARS,. HE REFERRED TO STANDING ASEAN INVITATION FOR PARTICIPATION BY "ALL SE ASIAN COUNTRIES". REFERRING TO VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, HE SAID THAT UNTIL GOM COULD BE SURE OF THEIR "NEW FRIENDS," THAT THEIR "OLD FRIENDS" (MEANING THE UNITED STATES) WOULD BE PARTICULARLY VALUED. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GOM'S ATTEMPTS TO HAVE AN "INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY", HOWEVER, RITHAUDDEEN STRESSED THE VALUE OF A "DISCREET" ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

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6. INDOCHINA. RITHAUDDEEN MENTIONED THAT HE HAD OBSERVED AT LIMA LESS OF A VIETNAM-CAMBODIA DIALOGUE THAN HE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED. HE SAID THAT HIS IMPRESSION FROM LIMA WAS THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WERE PUSHING THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE INTO THE PUBLIC LIGHT, IN ORDER TO SHOW THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE WERE NOT "UNDER ANY SORT OF BONDAGE". SECRETARY SAID THAT HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT VIET-

NAM WOULD BE RUN FROM HANOI.

7. MEETING CONCLUDED AS SECRETARY EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT
MEETING RITHAUDDEEN, AND EXTENDED BEST WISHES TO HIM FOR
A GOOD TRIP BACK TO KUALA LUMPUR. INGERSOLL

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